

The ceramics like “dzhuketaa” which was created on the basis of ware of the IX group of the end of IX – the first half of the X centuries can be connected with known on east sources of an esegelama – chigilam which have come to Central Volga at the end of the IX century through Bashkiria on a wave of Pecheneg approaches to Pre-Ural area. Radical ethnogenetic difference from Bulgarians has given to carriers of this tradition of production of ceramics, a possibility of self-realization during the whole pre-Mongolian and Golden Horde periods [1, p. 106-116]. The analysis of materials of the Kirmen complex shows that ceramics carriers like “dzhuketaa” were more susceptible to contacts with other Kama ethnocultural groups, for example with carriers XVIII and, partly, the VII groups of ceramics.

Single fragments of ceramics of XI (the alano-Bulgarian saltovsky), the XIV (Old Russian) and XVI (the “slavyanoidny” Povolzhskaya-Finnish) ethnocultural groups can’t introduce any amendments in an overall picture of interethnic processes in the Kirmen district in the XI-XIV centuries. The Pre-Ural Ugrian and Nizhnekamsk (esegelsky) population at the defining role of the bolgar-barsil population participated in these processes from the Western Zakamye. Interference and interpenetration of these ethnic groups has led to folding of a peculiar material culture of late medieval Pre-Kama region.

Thus, the analysis of individual finds from excavations of the Kirmen ancient settlement shows presence of objects of absolutely various ethno-territorial origin here. Certainly, not all from them show presence of ethnos of the producer here as they have arrived here as goods and it is such objects as numerous slate sinkers, a cornelian bead, a bead of dark brown glass with a white-yellow plastic pattern, the Novgorod type keys (some subtypes).

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## БОЛГАРО-БАШКИРСКИЕ ОТНОШЕНИЯ В ПЕРИОД СРЕДНЕВЕКОВЬЯ

## THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE BASHKIRS AND THE BULGARS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

**Аннотация.** В статье рассматривается болгаро-башкирские взаимоотношения в эпоху Средневековья со времени появления этих народов в Волго-Уральском регионе до золотоордынской эпохи. Этнокультурные взаимодействия и взаимовлияния башкирских и болгарских племён на протяжении всего домонгольского времени были постоянными и разносторонними. Формирование болгарского, а потом и древне-башкирского народностей представляло собой длительный процесс, на протяжении которого между Волгой и Уралом протекают сложные и неоднозначные этнические процессы. Монгольские завоевания привели к гибели Волжской Булгарии, значительной части населения и усложнению состава населения за счёт степных компонентов.

**Ключевые слова:** средневековье; Волго-Уральский регион; волжские болгары; башкиры; Волжская

Болгария; монголы; культура; ислам; Золотая Орда.

**Abstract.** The article reviews Bulgarian-Bashkir relations during the Middle Ages since the emergence of these peoples in the Volga-Ural region to the Golden era. Ethno-cultural interaction and mutual influence of the Bashkir and Bulgarian tribes were constant and versatile throughout pre-Mongol period. The formation of the Bulgarian and later of the ancient Bashkir peoples was a long process, during which complex and ambiguous ethnic processes occur between the Volga and the Urals. The Mongol conquest resulted in the downfall of Volga Bulgaria, the death of a large part of the population and it complicated the structure of the population by the steppe components.

**Keywords:** Middle Ages; Volga-Ural region; Volga Bulgars; Bashkirs; Volga Bulgaria; Mongols; culture; islam; Golden Horde.

Middle Ages was an interesting period in history not only to historians and archeologists, but also to folklorists. A lot of processes, existing during this period, influenced the formation of the Volga-Ural region's people.

In historic literature there was an extremely small amount of medieval period's researches about the Bashkirs' history. The history of the Bashkirs' development could be deeply studied only in conjunction with the historical processes of ethno-political world, a part of which the Bashkirs are.

For a long time there existed a constant and deep ethno-cultural interaction and interference between the Bashkirs and the Volga Bulgars. The Volga Bulgars were often considered to be one of the ancestors of the Bashkirs.

The territorial proximity explained close contacts between the Bashkirs and the Bulgars. Ibn-Rustah in his work which referred to 911-912, said that one group of the Bashkirs was located near the Volga Bulgaria. This fact could be proved by different sources. Ibn Sahl Balkhi, who lived in IX-X century, wrote that one of the two Bashkirs' tribes lived near the Bulgars, in the neighborhood with "Guz-Kumans" [1, p. 241].

Ibn Fadlan put "a country of Turkic people, which was called Bashgard" to the left tributaries of the Volga River [6, p. 26]. One shouldn't forget about ethnic proximity between the Bulgars and the Bashkirs. This phenomenon was described by the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi [3, p. 438].

The Bashkirs represented themselves very generic and soldierly people, but despite it, they were in the political dependence of the Volga Bulgaria [1, p. 241]. It could be proved by the message of Ibn Sahl Balkhi, where he wrote that the Bashkirs were subordinate to the Bulgar kings [3, p. 438].

The period of XI-XII century was a period of the Volga Bulgaria and the Bashkirs tribes' economic and political life's development. But further consolidation and development of the Volga-Kama region's people, their culture and economy, was interrupted by the Mongol invasion. In the XIII century the Volga Bulgars and the Bashkirs as the other people of Central Asia, Siberia, East and Central Europe, Kazakhstan had to survive the Mongol-Tatar conquest [5, p. 329].

The Bulgars obviously got the first information about the Mongols and their predatory campaigns in 1216-1220, during the conquest of Altai and Central Asia's cities and countries [9, p. 84]. The invasion of the Volga Bulgaria took three stages. The last stage took place in 1236. But the capture and destruction of the Volga Bulgaria didn't mean that the Bulgars would disappear as an ethnos. The Bulgars made the attempts to restore their independence up to the 1277-1278, but all their attempts failed [8, p. 56].

The destiny of the Volga Bulgaria ended miserably. But what about the Bashkirs, who lived not far from the Volga Bulgaria? It was a very difficult question, because there wasn't a single point of view about this problem. Considering this problem, it was necessary to have a view of that the Bashkirs, divided into several parts, were conquered by the Mongols in different periods of the XIII century. Zeki Velidi Togan referred the conquest to 1207 [7, p. 36]. The scientists supposed that a part of the Bashkirs voluntarily joined the state of Mongol-Tatar in 1219-1220 [3, p. 439]. Among the historians there was an opinion that the Ural Bashkirs were subordinate to the Mongols at the very beginning of Genghis Khan's campaign. There wasn't a war between the Ural Bashkirs and the Mongols [7, p. 36]. The Julian's data confirmed this assumption. He wrote that the Bashkirs had obeyed to the Mongols in 1214-1220, without any resistance [2, p. 17]. The western Bashkirs fought for a long time with the invaders on the Bulgars' side. They took part in battles in 1229 and 1232 [3, p. 439].

It was also known that the Mongols were occupied by conquering the Bashkirs, nomadizing the steppes of the Southern Ural till the summer of the 1232 [8, p. 30]. Before the last campaign against the Volga Bulgaria, the Bashkirs had been already conquered by the Mongols [10, p. 120]. The establishment of the contractual relations with the Mongols, saved the Bashkirs from the destruction. But in the western territories the Bashkirs were subjected to mass destruction.

The period from the middle of the XIII to the middle of the XV centuries was characterized by the existence of the largest state formation – the Golden Horde. It was also called the Ulus of Jochi.

Many people of the Volga and the Ural regions, among which were the Bulgars and the Bashkirs, became the part of the Ulus of Jochi. The Bulgars and the Bashkirs had been already conquered by the Mongols in the first half of the XIII century. Considering these folks as the part of the Golden Horde, it is necessary to take into consideration a new stage of the development of the Bulgars and the Bashkirs nationalities. The Volga Bulgaria and its people experienced all difficulties connected with the Mongolian invasion and the Horde's domination. But at the same time,

the Volga Bulgaria's people took part not only in economic, but also in ethnic processes in the Golden Horde. The Mongols quickly denationalized and dissolved in the prevailing mass of the bulgarian-kipchak population. This phenomenon could be confirmed by the works of Al-Umari. According to R.G. Kuzeev's conclusion, the period from XIII to XIV c. played a great role in ethnic consolidation of the Bashkirs, because in that period new vagrant tribes, first of all of kipchak origin, entered the Bashkirs [4, p. 184].

It is necessary to point out that the Bulgars and the Bashkirs, who became a part of the Golden Horde, had not only negative moments of the invaders influence, but in the conditions of subordination, they managed to develop the commodity-money relations with other countries.

In this way, studying the relations between the Bulgars and the Bashkirs during the Golden Horde's influence, it is necessary to consider the changes in the Volga and the Ural regions in the XIII-XV centuries stage-by-stage. Also, the role of the Mongols conquest should be noted. It played a great role in the process of disintegration of the Volga Bulgaria and the loss of the Bashkirs' autonomy. The Bashkir unity turned out to be stronger than the Bulgars, as it kept its name, and the Bulgars were forced to accept the ethnonym of the Tatars.

Considering the relations between the Bashkirs and the Bulgars from the X till the beginning of the XIII centuries, one should consider not only their ethnic and territorial proximity, but also one of the important parts of each folk's culture – the religion. The religion, as the main ideology of society, entered all spheres of people's activity. The main religion in the Ural region in the X-XIII centuries was Islam. But how did Islam – the religion of the developed feudalism – permeated among the Bashkirs and the Bulgars, who were at the level of the tribal system?

Among scientists there wasn't still a consensus about dating of the Bashkirs' Islamization. Some historians consider, that among the Turkic people, the Bashkirs were the last to accept Islam. Some of the Bashkirs had an opportunity to accept Islam in the 40<sup>th</sup> of the VIII century together with the Khazars, and in the beginning of the X century with the Volga Bulgars.

Active trade, economic and cultural contacts with the people of Central Asia made a decisive channel of Islam's distribution. Thus, the Bulgars played a great role in the Bashkirs' life in the period from the X till the middle of the XIII century – the Volga Bulgars influenced the political and the spiritual life of the Bashkirs.

The analysis of the relationships between the Bulgars and the Bashkirs couldn't be completed without a consideration of the Bulgars' crucial role in the Bashkirs' Islamization. Neither the Muslims of the Khazaria's cities, nor preachers of Central Asia did even a piece of what the Bulgarian missionaries made in the Bashkir cities.

Thus, the relations between the Bulgars and the Bashkirs during the medieval period were very difficult and quite contradictory. The formation of the Bulgars and the Bashkirs' nationalities was a very long process, during which people, living in the neighborhood, influenced each other.

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